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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

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A gamut of issues plague upkeep in city without council as 8,063 BBMP positions lie vacant and pourakarmikas protest

IS BENGALURU UNDERSTAFFED?

Just 3,615 out of 17,425 civic workers turn up for work

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike seems to be grossly understaffed as around 8,063 posts are yet to be filled up.

According to BBMP special commissioner Rangappa S, 12,827 posts in the BBMP have been approved by the government.

Out of this, 7,369 staff members are already working with the Palike. The number of vacancies is higher as many posts have not been regularised under cadre and recruitment rules. Rangappa said there are 161 categories of posts in the BBMP.

"The shortage is in many departments, especially the revenue division where 370 staff members are to be hired. In the horticulture department, 757 posts are yet to be filled while 658 positions in health and 3,673 vacancies in engineering cell are not filled," he explained.

Many are being deputed to the BBMP to overcome shortage; 340 employees are on deputation and 22,105 are part of outsourced staff.

Officials BM spoke to said that the shortage of staff is affecting the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

KAUSHIK JN

"While there is not much of a disturbance in garbage collection, road cleaning has been hit; hence we are using mechanical cleaners

— Rangappa S, special commissioner, BBMP

Tamarind Trappings

Rs 5 lakh earmarked for revival of India's first biodiversity heritage site in Devanahalli

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The Karnataka forest department is finally planning the revival of the 54-acre Nallur tamarind grove, India's first biodiversity heritage site located in Devanahalli. According to officials from the department, Rs 5 lakh has been earmarked for the revival of the sacred grove; on-ground work will begin within a week.

"We have secured Rs 5 lakh, to begin work on the upkeep of the grove. The site has been neglected for too long and if not maintained, we will lose the heritage trees that some believe were planted over 400 years ago. We are looking at securing a minimum of Rs 20 lakh more to ensure complete revival and protection of the site," said Sumitkumar Subhashrao Patil, deputy conservator of forests, Bengaluru Rural.

The botanical marvel with over 300 trees was declared a biodiversity heritage site in 2007. According to a carbon dating study by the University of Agricultural Sciences in 2008, the oldest tree in the grove is about 400 years old.

Over a period of time, the site has been taken over by invasive species and weeds, threatening the original tamarind trees.

Officials said the priority is to free the grove from invasive species such as prosopis

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Satire and more

Catch Bangalore Little Theatre's latest production 'The Middle Class Gentleman' a comedy, about a social-climbing middle-class merchant, Monsieur Jourdain. He aspires to join the aristocracy by ordering splendid new clothes, engaging in such aristocratic pastimes as fencing and dancing, and learning the language of the noble class. In the process, he manages to make a complete fool of himself, much to the dismay of his intelligent wife. **Where: Alliance Française de Bangalore, Vasanth Nagar; When: July 3**

02 Family tales

Antharanga presents a humorous family play "Husband - 360", in Kannada. Penned by Nagaveni Rangan and directed by Archana Shyam & Vijay Jois, the story revolves round a hapless husband and his adamant and demanding wife. The plot is woven around the weight loss and targets given by a wife to her husband in order to participate in a TV reality show.
Where: Prabhat KH Kala Soudha, Ramanjaneya Temple Campus, Hanumantha Nagar
When: July 3, 7 pm;
Tickets: 9880914509/ 9986911321

03 All about Odissi

Sanjali Centre for Odissi Dance presents 'Samarpana', an evening of Odissi dance performances on Sunday. Conceptualised by Sharmila Mukerjee, Samarpana will showcase original choreographies and a few classic compositions by Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra, the main architect of Odissi dance. Known for her choice of fresh and unconventional themes, Sharmila's performances go beyond the traditional repertoire. Her love for the offbeat is evident in all her productions that have portrayed distinctive themes through the threads of Odissi.
Where: Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield
When: July 3, 7.30 pm; Tickets: bookmyshow.com

Tummy ache? Blame it on too many mangoes

Over consumption of mangoes is affecting people's digestive systems

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A mango fair in Mysuru, Karnataka. Most citizens eagerly wait for this season to get their fix of the king of fruits

Bengalureans love their mangoes. For many people, this is the time of year they wait for the most. But too many mangoes might just land you in the doctor's chamber as doctors are reporting an increase in the incidence of gastric and diarrhoea due to overconsumption of mangoes.

Over 30-40 per cent of cases of increase in diarrhoea and gastroenteritis are being reported at the Out Patient Department (OPD) of the hospitals. As mango contains a lot of fibre, its excessive consumption can cause an upset stomach or diarrhoea. While it is often seen that many people eat mangoes at night, and doing so affects one's digestive system.

Dr Darshana Reddy, senior consultant, internal medicine, Altius Hospitals, HBR layout said, "There are a few side effects of consuming mangoes in large quantities. The most common ones are diarrhoea and gastritis. I have patients who eat kilos of mangoes in a day.

"Yes, the mango-lovers, who come to the clinic with their first sentence being, 'doctor, I had too many mangoes last night and now, I have an upset tummy.'"

There are several reasons for this. Mango is rich in fibre and sorbitol, a type of sugar that enables gut motility, informed Reddy.

"Diarrhoea does not ensue when mangoes are consumed in moderation. However excessive consumption may result in increased frequency of upset stomach. Ripening of commercially sold mangoes is not natural. Mangoes are picked before they achieve early ripening. There are several chemicals that are being used to achieve it like calcium carbide. These chemicals can be harmful to the gut. Treated mangoes soaked for 15 minutes in water releases a pungent smell," Reddy added.

Dr Veerendra Sandur, Lead Consultant - Med. Gastroenterology & Hepatology said that considering it is the mango season, consuming improperly washed mangoes, chemically ripened mangoes could lead to gastroenteritis and diarrhoea.

"Apart from this, even the rainy season has caused contamination in water and added to the increase in cases. We are seeing 5 to 6 patients with severe dehydration and about 15 to 20 outpatients with mild dehydration The rise in cases can be attributed to contamination of water due to the rainy season.

"Also, with travelling back to pre-covid levels, people are eating food from outside including street food which is also contributing to the issue," added Dr Sundar.

Dr BS Ravindra, Director - Department of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, Fortis Hospitals, Bannerghatta Road, pointed out that consuming one or two mangoes a day would be fine, over consumption of more than that could lead to diarrhoea.

"As mangoes contain fructose, it could lead to diarrhoea. Even the cut mangoes left open for hours and then consumed could also lead to stomach ailments," Ravindra added.

> **"Washing mangoes well before ripening will help remove all impurities** –
> Dr Darshana Reddy, Senior consultant, internal medicine, Altius Hospitals

Dos and don'ts

- Consume hygienically prepared hot food.
- Maintain hygiene by washing your hands regularly.
- Wash vegetables and fruits thoroughly before consuming them.
- Completely avoid artificially ripened mangoes.

Tamarind grove revival

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

juliflora. Experts said this is a shrub native to Mexico, Central and northern South America; it is an aggressive invader.

"The grove has been taken over by weeds. If left unattended, weed shall completely take over the native plantation. So weeding is our priority. We are especially concentrating on the removal of prosopis julpipera. Prosopis is a kind of weed that grows back if cut and removed. We need to uproot these. The process is time-consuming and resource-intensive. Due to the years of negligence, the natural regeneration capacity of the trees has diminished. However, weed removal will accelerate the process," said Patil.

Lack of fencing has also led to unchecked cattle grazing from nearby villages. Animals feeding on lower branches of the heritage trees and shrubs will have a negative impact on soil quality and the trees too, experts pointed out.

"The first step in the revival should be barricading the grove. This will regulate the movement of people and will reduce grazing. Cattle grazing should not be allowed as it degrades the soil quality and makes it impervious. The site also requires application of soil to the tree roots that have been exposed over time due to the lack of maintenance," said Dr Nagarajaiah C, ex-professor at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru.

The department plans to barricade the area with barbed wire fencing.

"While a portion of the grove is still protected by the barricade, we need to install more and block the area completely. We decided on a barbed wire barricade as erecting a compound wall will be a costly affair. We are also looking at harvesting rainwater by desilting an old sump inside the grove," a forest department official told BM.

"The heritage site has been overlooked for years and has not been maintained. While Rs 5 lakh is not a huge sum, it will surely be helpful to some extent. However, the revival process should be done in consultation with the local people. All the stakeholders must be part of the decision-making process. There should be accountability about how the fund is being spent and this information should be made public," said Dr TV Ramachandra of the Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc.

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Dead fish float on dying city lake

Shoddy maintenance is pushing Thubarahalli lake to brink

Shreyashi Mukherjee
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Ignorance and encroachment are costing the people of Bengaluru their lakes.

City dwellers say that if this trend continues, there will soon be no lakes left.

Thubarahalli lake is one such lake people are worried about.

Lack of maintenance by authorities, they say, will be the cause of death for this lake.

The lake's water is reported to be visibly receding.

Radhika, a resident of the area, said, "Yesterday, when I was passing by the lake, I saw the dreadful condition it was in. There were dead fish floating all across the water body. It was scary and heart-breaking to see. The authorities are taking no steps to maintain the lake and look into the marine life within it."

Mukhesh, another resident, said, "Now that the fish are dying, migratory birds that used to visit the lake will also stop coming as they will not have anything to feed on. If nothing is done soon, the area will become a barren piece of land."

Residents also complain that they have seen people throwing garbage in the premises, which is causing further pollution.

Dead fish can be seen floating on the Thubarahalli lake

> **"Now that the fish are dying, migratory birds that used to visit the lake will also stop coming with nothing to eat** –Mukesh, Resident

Roshni, a resident living in the area, said, "Just two days ago I stopped near the lake to take a break from my morning walk. I noticed that a lady was washing her clothes zthere. I tried to stop her, but she did not pay heed to whatever I said and continued doing the same. This is all because authorities are not taking strict action against these people."

Akshay Srinivasan, an environment enthusiast residing in the city, said, "There are a lot of buildings in the vicinity, and sewage from all those apartments come into this water. This untreated sewage is depleting the oxygen content of the water, causing the fish to die. All the living beings of this lake will perish if things continue to be the same."

An official from the BBMP Lake Department said they would look into the matter and take steps to treat the water body.

How to walk your dog inside Cubbon Park

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With the Horticulture Department mulling the dog ban, dog-walkers coming to Cubbon Park without dog poop scooping gear will not be permitted inside from tomorrow.

The department's proposal to issue a blanket ban on dogs and prohibit their entry from July 1st had faced a lot of heat. According to a recent update, while the horticulture minister is studying the Animal Welfare Board guidelines, Cubbon Park officials are planning to make stringent enforcement of the rules.

"Starting tomorrow, we are going to insist dog-walkers carry all the necessary gear needed to scoop up dog poop. Dog-owners entering without the required gear will not be permitted inside," said Principal Secretary of Horticulture Department, Rajendra Kumar Kataria.

Kataria added that the dog ban was proposed after repeated violations by dog owners.

A dog ban was proposed after repeated violations by dog owners

"Park users need to take ownership of the park. Whenever officials instruct offenders, they are rebuked back. This sort of irresponsible behaviour is forcing the ban. For 197 acres, we only have 50 security guards. Individually catching the offenders and fining them can be a tedious task. Self-discipline can only be the only solution," he added.

For the next month, department officials will be watching the behaviour of pet parents closely.

Apart from the mandate to bring the gear, offenders will be caught, and both the dog and dog owners' photos will be taken and pasted on a 'wall of shame'.

Bangalore Mirror
Brakes on Cubbon Park's dog ban plan

BM's report on June 29 about Horticulture Dept rethinking the plan to ban on dogs

When asked if the dog ban is still in place, Kataria said, "We are preparing comprehensive guidelines for dog-owners and park users. We will decide on the fines as well."

President of Cubbon Park Walkers Association, Umesh Kumar, told BM," Officials are going to observe violations for the next few months."

Decentralising the responsibility, authorities are also planning to start the Cubbon Park Warden program under the Horticulture Department. Walkers interested in ensuring rules in Cubbon Park will be issued an official Warden ID card, and will be authorised to stop violations.

"This will be very helpful for those who are concerned about the park and its rules. The official ID will provide the required authority to stop offenders. However, there is also a need to increase the number of security guards. Collecting fines from offenders can also be used to create a trust for pourakarmikas in the city," said Priya Chetty Rajagopal, a regular walker.

CM assures assistance to pourakarmikas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Palike's work. For instance, in the revenue department, the civic body has not been able to protect its assets such as lakes or estates.

The BBMP is now planning for a special tahsildar who can take over the survey of lakes. There are 201 lakes in the civic agency's limits. Out of the 201 waterbodies, 19 are considered as dead lakes. Around 161 lakes are categorised into mixed encroachment waterbodies. Out of the 161 lakes, 26 are encroached by government bodies, six have become slums and 129 are partially encroached.

Mechanical sweepers

With many pourakarmikas skipping work on Saturday due to their protest seeking regularisation of roles, better wages and allowances for children' education, the BBMP pressed into action mechanical sweepers to clean the roads. While these machines could be deployed only on main roads, the interior roads were looking dirty without human intervention. In the last two days, only 3,615 out of 17,425 Pourkarmikas turned up to work.

Rangappa said waste collection in the city has not been affected much. He said 454 out of 1,421 pourakarmika supervisors had turned up to work alongside 4,946 (out of 5,205) auto drivers and 4,713 (out of 5,360 helpers). Only 10 (634 out of 644) compactors remained off the roads.

"While there is not much of a disturbance of garbage collection, road cleaning has been hit and hence we are using mechanical cleaners", he said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the state government has agreed in principle to regularise the services of pourakarmikas who are working on a direct payment system. "The necessary legal and technical measures in this regard would be taken. We have agreed to extend social security, medical service and assistance for education of the children of pourakarmikas. The necessary rules would be formulated during the next assembly session," he added.

A committee has been formed comprising senior officials, heads of Karnataka State Commission for Safai Karamcharis and Karnataka State Safai Karmachari Development Corporation president, officials from legal department and pourakarmika representatives. The committee has been asked to submit a report within three months.

The government has also decided to simplify the pourakarmikas hiring by starting direct recruitment. Women pourakarmikas will be entitled for maternity benefits, and a scholarship scheme will be initiated for children. The CM has also directed officials to construct resthouses with toilet facilities for the benefit of pourakarmikas in each ward.

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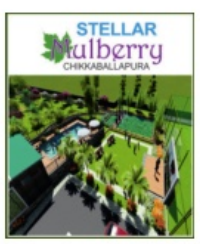

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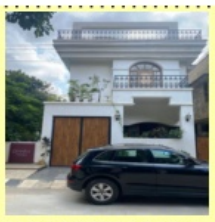

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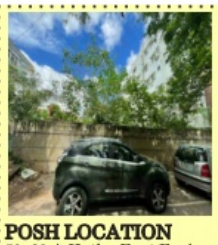

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Contact : 9886006459/8660136247
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REQUIRED accountants audit assistants knowing tally and Article Assistants for CA Firm in Rajajinagar Bangalore Apply msaaca@gmail.com

WANTED Experienced Accounts Assistant with Tally, GST, ESI and PF Knowledge Mail Your Resume to:- indogass@gmail.com

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OTHER VACANCIES

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I, Gajanan Nayak S/o. Kamalakar Nayak R/o. #33, 2nd Main Road, Muniswamappa Layout, Tindlu, Vidyaranyapur Post, Bangalore-560097 Karnataka have changed my name and father's name for all future purposes as GAJANAN KAMALAKAR NAIK S/o. Kamalakar Naik Sworn before V.Anjanappa (Notary) Blore

I, MOHAMMAD KALIM NOORIE residing at Sy.No.1, Bannerghatta road, Behind Aqsa Masjid, 3rd Main, H.K. Cross road, Pillaganahalli, Gottigere, Bangalore-560083 have changed my name to MOHAMMED KALEEM RAZA NOORI vide affidavit dated 01.07.2022 before notary R. Basavaraja, Bangalore.

I Pruthvishree , D/o. Ramakrishna Hegde, R/a No. 22, "SADGURU" 3rd Main, 3rd Cross, Beml 5th Stage, 1st Block, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560098. I have changed my name to PRUTHVISHRI HEGDE. Vide affidavit dt: 01-07-2022. Sworn before Notary : B Rajashekhara

I Dipen, S/o. Mahendra Kumar, R/a No. 85, Harsh Deep Niwas, 3rd Cross, Srirampuram Railway Bridge Up Road, Srirampuram Bangalore- 560021. I have changed my name to DIPEN KOTHARI. Vide affidavit dt: 01-07-2022. Sworn before Notary : Sumangala Hegde.

I, DIVYA SHARMA, W/o, Bhupendra Hanumanprasad Sharma residing at D14, 301, AWHO Sandeep Vihar, Seegehalli, Kadugodi, Bangalore 560067 have changed my name to DIVYABEN B SHARMA vide affidavit dated 02/07/2022 sworn before notary B V Nagabhushana, Bangalore.

I, Smt. Pratima Bishnoi, R/a No 303, Axis Olivia, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Sarvabhowma nagar, B.G. Road B'lore 76. After Marriage I have changed my name from PRATIMA to PRATIMA BISHNOI. affidavit dtd 01-07-22 Sworn before notary Ganapati Hegde B,lore.

I, Shweta Tewari D/o Shiv Sagar tewari & W/o Harsimran Singh Khalsa R/o # 404 dheeraj manor , 24 kensington Road , ulsoor 560008 karnataka have changed my name to Shweta Kaur Khalsa for all purposes

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Widening of NH 766 stirs debate

Environmentalists oppose it, say it damages natural vegetation

Once constructed, the road will help Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu to commute easily and safely

The NH 77 that connects Mysuru to Kerala is once again turned into a bone of contention. Recently, Gundlupet Legislator and Karnataka State Forest Industries Corporation Chairman CS Niranjan Kumar requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to develop NH 766 to ease the commuting from Karnataka to Kerala and Tamil Nadu via Gundlupet.

He met PM Modi at the airport when he visited Mysuru to attend the International Yoga day celebrations. He submitted the request to the Prime Minister to speed up the process of developing the highway as the land acquisition is already done.

Meanwhile, environmentalists opposed the idea of making a double road as it crosses 22 km of forest land. They are suggesting that the road can be widened from Nanjangud to Maddur check post, beyond that the extension of the road will damage the natural vegetation in the area.

The road once developed will benefit the economic activities of the three states. It will improve connectivity and will help farmers to transport their produce to markets efficiently and timely

NH 766 connects Mysuru-Nanjangud to Kerala via Gundlupet. The road is two-lane and it connects three states, the vehicle density is very high and results in frequent fatal accidents. Once connected, the road will help the residents of Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu to commute easily and safely. This is the most preferred route for Bengalureans who travel to Mysuru, Ooty, Bandipur, Wayanad and Kozhikode etc.

Once it is developed, this will also improve the economic activities of the three states. The improved road connectivity is very essential to help the farmers to transport their produce to markets efficiently and timely, which will help them to sustain their livelihoods. He requested the Prime Minister to initiate the project soon to make it a double road and with a road divider.

—PRAKASH VL

सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances

National Awards for e-Governance 2021-22

NOTICE INVITING NOMINATIONS

With a view to recognize and promote excellence in implementation of e-Governance initiatives, the Government of India presents National Awards for e-Governance every year.

Nominations are invited online from Central Ministries/Departments, State/UT Governments, Districts, Local Bodies, Central and State PSUs, Academic and Research Institutions (whether government or non-government) under 5 categories as per eligibility criteria detailed in the Award Scheme w.e.f 1st July, 2022 on www.nceg.gov.in.

Modalities for sending nomination along with Guidelines and other details of the Award Scheme are available on the Department's website www.darpg.gov.in/ www.nceg.gov.in. All nominations are to be submitted online as per details given in the Award Scheme. Nominations sent by email/ hand/post/ courier/fax or in any other form as hard copy shall not be accepted.

Last date for submission of Nominations :- 31st July 2022.

Contact Details: Ms. Vibhuti Panjiyar, Under Secretary (e-Gov), Department of Administrativ Reforms & Public Grievances, 5th Floor, Sardar Patel Bhawan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi – 110001.
email: vibhuti.panjiyar@nic.in; Tel. +91-11-23367966

CBC 32101/11/0001/2223

HEALTH TIP: Get at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity, like biking or brisk walking in a week

Fish is a good source of protein and contains many vitamins and minerals

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THE SECRET SAUCE

Masterchef Sashi Cheliah believes in street food with style; finds inspiration from the streets

Rohini Banerjee
c-rohini.banerjee@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Masterchef Australia winner (season 10) Sashi Cheliah was in his element when Bangalore Mirror caught up with him during his visit to the city at The Leela Palace. In a freewheeling chat, the law enforcement personnel-turned-chef opened up about his gastronomic inspiration, love for local food, restaurant journey, and more.

Cheliah, who has a soft spot for deconstructing and beautifying street food, especially Malaysian, Singaporean, and Indian, has ventured into the food business in India with his new restaurant 'Pandan Club' in Chennai. However, this is not his first gig. The Australia-based chef has already been running his successful pop-up 'Gaja' in Melbourne and Adelaide.

After touching down in Chennai on June 14, he started his weekend with dosa, idli, and vadas.

"When I'm in the South, I go for south Indian food," he quipped.

Barring one day when he reached for eggs, he never even touched the continental side at breakfast.

"In the evenings I would usually go to a mess or a local south Indian place," he said.

With special mentions about the Amma Mess and the Military Hotel, Cheliah made it evident that he finds his inspiration from the streets.

"I'm the kind of person who likes to go down to the street, as that's where you get some nice inspiration and ideas," he added.

Cheliah broke down his creative process with examples from his time in the coastal city.

"I came across a very unique dish in a mess, called 'Japan chicken', which is a spice-mixed deep-fried chicken that is tossed in a French-style cream-based sauce. This is in a south Indian mess! I definitely thought this was interesting, and I should play around with this," he said.

In another instance, he spoke of trying a 'podi paratha' that stuck with him.

"They shredded parathas, deep fried them, tossed it with curry sauce, and then topped it off with a nice, soft omlet. So, you have the crisp, the flavours of the curry, and the creaminess of the egg," he marvelled.

Once he is back home, he said he will possibly think of something that is inspired by all of this.

"The podi paratha can be easily done in my restaurant - maybe with some different garnishes, and plated up nicely," he added.

When asked about his personal favourite from his pop-up 'Gaja', he reflexively said it was the sweet and sour pork.

However, his 'all-time favourite' is the Kingfish sashimi.

"Nice, clean sashimi-grade king fish, served with curry sauce, coconut cream, puffed rice, and fried curry leaves," he described his avant-garde Indo-Japanese take on the sashimi.

His love for deconstructed food shows up in the 'Gaja' menu, with fresh oysters alongside deconstructed raita being among his top picks.

The best part about food for Cheliah is the aroma.

His favourite ingredient to cook with is "anything that is aromatic".

"Anything with aromas - chilis, lemongrass, or galangal - is my go-to," he stated.

Everyone has an Achilles' heel, and although Cheliah does not really consider it as a 'weakness', he thinks vegemite is a tough ingredient to work with.

"If you don't know how to use vegemite correctly it will overpower the dish. It has a very strong flavour," he said.

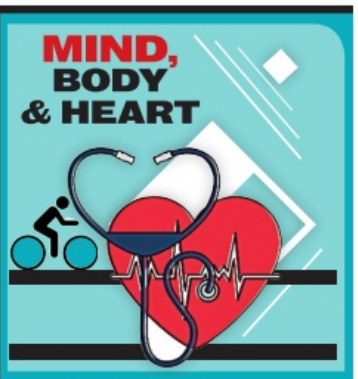
When asked about one chef he would love to cook with, he said, "Can't say Gordon (Ramsay), because I already have cooked with him. I think Gaggan Anand."

"He is an Indian chef who did not make it big in India," he said with a hint of surprise.

"Anand is easily among the world's top 50 chefs. He is currently based in Bangkok and Singapore, and works with Indian food. I find similarities in our cooking. Even in his restaurant, the first menu is very similar to what 'Gaja' is doing. The first couple of sections will be innovative or creative things, while the last section will be all his curries," he added.

The Masterchef has one piece of advice for aspiring chefs and restaurant owners – to try, no matter what the outcome.

"My motto is one – try. If you don't try, you don't know what you'll miss," he said with a smile.



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I've been having an affair with someone for most of the past year.
Both of us are in long-term relationships, but neither of us is married and we don't have kids.
We've been talking lately about ending our relationships and being a proper couple, but I'm a bit nervous about making the leap and I'm not sure if it'll work once it's out in the open.
I know this will break my boyfriend's heart, even though we probably should have called it quits on our relationship some time ago.

COLEEN SAYS

I just wonder why it's taken you this long to leave your boyfriend when you're not married, don't have kids and say the relationship has been over for a while.
You can't have it all and I think if the plan is to leave him to be with the other guy, then you should end it sooner rather than later.
I don't know whether this new relationship will work out.
However, keep in mind that couples who have an affair enjoy the excitement of doing something they know they shouldn't be doing, and that element isn't there when things are out in the open.
The relationship is no longer a fantasy.
So, you need to think about whether this feels like the real thing or if it was just thrill seeking, so you could avoid dealing with things at home. Either way, you owe it to your boyfriend to end the relationship because it's clearly not what you want.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

Alt News co-founder Zubair sent to 14-day police custody

A Delhi court on Saturday rejected the bail plea of Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair in connection with an 'objectionable tweet' allegedly posted against a Hindu deity, and granted his 14-day custody as sought by the Delhi Police.

Zubair was produced before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Snigdha Sarvaria at the Patiala House Courts on Monday after his four-day judicial custody in the case in which he had allegedly hurt the sentiments of a community through a tweet ended on Saturday.

"Since the matter is at the initial stage of investigation and given the overall facts and circumstances of the case and nature and gravity of the offences alleged against the accused, no ground for grant of bail is made out," Sarvaria said while dismissing Zubair's bail plea.

He will be next produced before the court on July 16. In another development, the order which was pronounced by the judge on Saturday evening was allegedly 'leaked' by the Delhi Police, triggering a row just after DCP K.P.S. Malhotra informed the media about the dismissal of Zubair's bail plea in the afternoon.

Zubair's lawyer Soutik Banerjee alleged that it is "extremely scandalous and speaks of the status of rule of law" in the country at present where the police leak the order to the media even before the judicial magistrate pronounces it.

Mohammed Zubair, a journalist and co-founder of fact checking website Alt News, being taken to jail from Patiala House court after court sent him to 14-day judicial custody in New Delhi on Saturday

Atul Shrivastava, the newly-appointed special public prosecutor for Delhi Police, opposed Zubair's bail plea, pointing out that the new charges invoked against Zubair are under Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 35 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act.

He argued that foreign contributions from Pakistan, Syria and Australia in favour of Parvada Media Foundation, where Zubair is a director, came forth during the investigation for which police custody has been sought.

As per the FIR, accused Zubair had used a screengrab of an old Hindi movie which showed an image of a hotel, with its board reading 'Hanuman hotel' instead of 'Honeymoon hotel'.

In his tweet, Zubair had written, "BEFORE 2014: Honeymoon Hotel. After 2014: Hanuman Hotel."

The Delhi High Court had earlier issued a notice to the Delhi Police on a plea moved by Zubair challenging the Patiala House Courts order allowing his police custody and seizure of his laptop in connection with the alleged objectionable tweet. **IANS**

'Repair schools in 1 month or...'

Former Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Saturday gave a one-month ultimatum to the state government to improve the condition of government schools and warned that his party- JD(S)- would launch a protest in case no action was taken.

In a series of tweets in Kannada quoting media reports and statistics, Kumaraswamy sought to know how India can become a 'Vishwaguru' (world leader) if the schools were in bad shape.

"The government should act immediately. Officials should be sent to the schools to take up the renovation of schools and provide all basic infrastructure. There is no question of keeping quiet if anything happens to even a child. If no improvement happens in one month, Education Minister (B C Nagesh) will face agitation," the former Chief Minister tweeted.

Taking a dig at the BJP government, he said it has tried to cover up issue of leaking roofs of schools and added that 75,675 school buildings were in a dilapidated state. "However, it is the pride of Karnataka, which is dilapidated," the JD(S) second-in-command alleged.

He said students were going to these dilapidated schools risking their lives. The JD(S) leader blamed the Education Minister and officials for the pathetic condition of schools. "Students go to government schools as they cannot afford the hefty fees in the private schools. Is there no value of the lives of students..." he said. **PTI**

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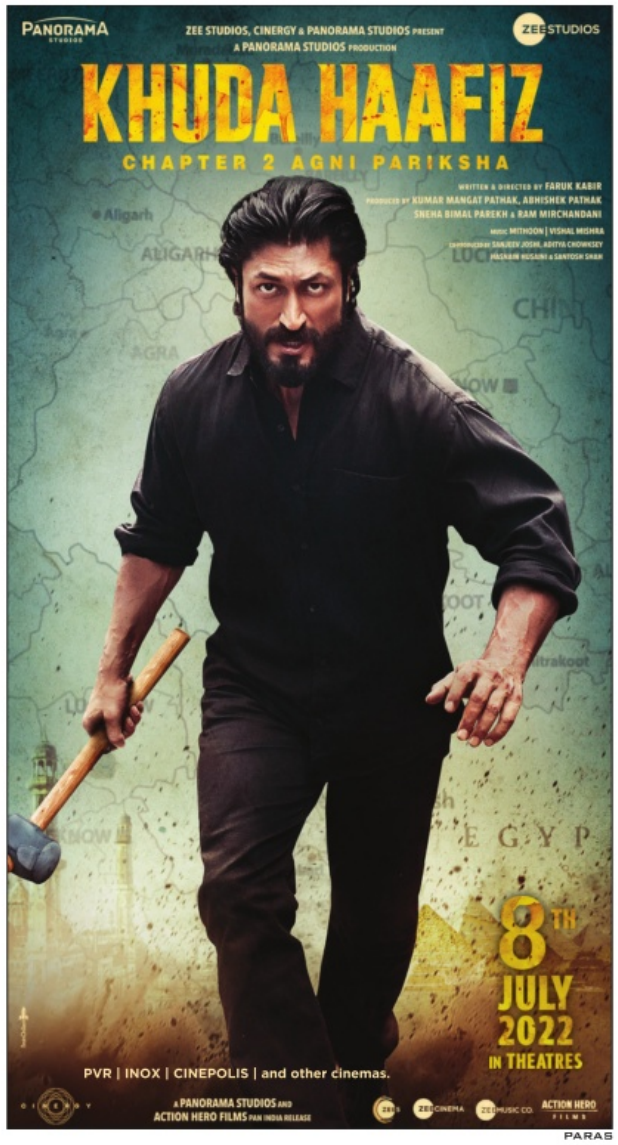
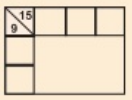

PANORAMA STUDIOS
ZEE STUDIOS, CINERGY & PANORAMA STUDIOS PRESENT
A PANORAMA STUDIOS PRODUCTION
ZEE STUDIOS
KHUDA HAAFIZ
CHAPTER 2 AGNI PARIKSHA
8TH JULY 2022 IN THEATRES
PVR | INOX | CINEPOLIS | and other cinemas.
A PANORAMA STUDIOS AND ACTION HERO FILMS PAN INDIA RELEASE
PARAS

PVR | Cinépolis | INOX | CARNIVAL CINEMAS
GOPALAN CINEMAS | INNOVATIVE | CAUVERY | URVASHI
Amruth | Sampige | Swagath Shankarnag | Swagath Poornima
hegde | RAVI | LNT Srinivasa S.G.Palya | LNT Lakshmi Tavarekere
Bharath Cinemas | ROCKLINE | MUKTA A2 | MOVIE TIME
DRC | KINO CINEMAS | VIJAY Mysuru Road. | PRAKASH Belgaum

ABHINAY - KG Road | ANUPAMA - Bangaluru | VISION - Mysuru | PUSHPANJALI - BN Pura | AMEER - Bijapur | VIJAY - Dharwad | MUKUNDA - MS Nagar | VICTORY - Bengaluru | SAVITHA - Sampige Road | SHOBHA - Bapujinagar | GALAXY PARADISE - Hongasandra KAPEEL - Belgaum | GLOBE - Belgaum | OLYMPIA - KGF | MANJUNATHA - Shimoga | VARADARAJ - Mulbagal | APSARA - Hubli | PRASANNA - Magadi Road | VINAYAKA - Varthur | SANGEETH - Shivajinagar | SHANKAR - Gowribidnur | CINE GALAXY - Surathkal | and other cinemas.

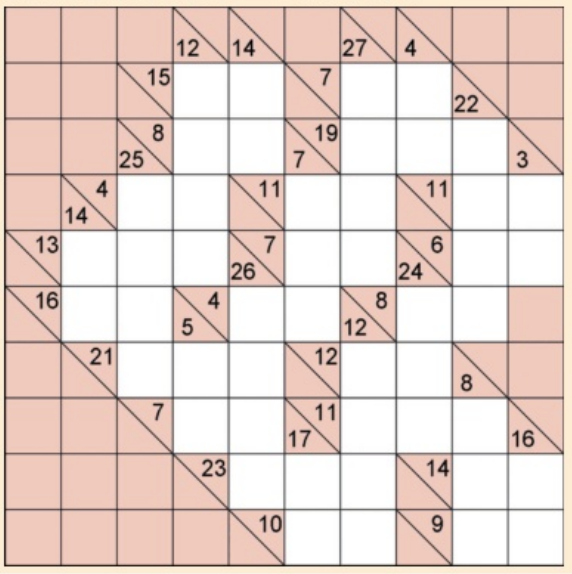
PARAS

Kakuro

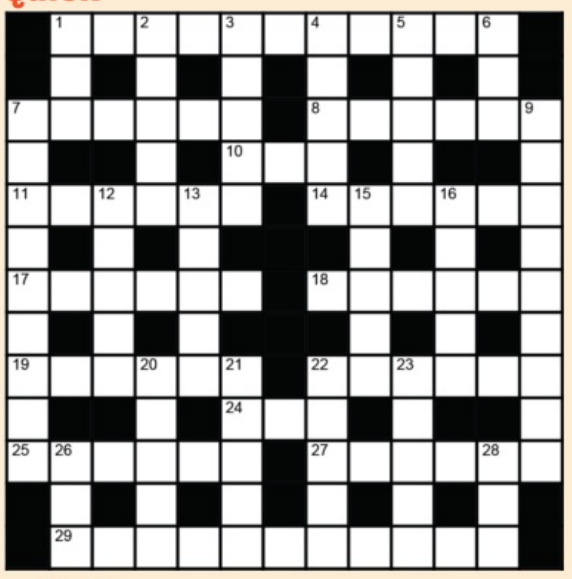


The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Personal relics (11)
7 Leading commodity (6)
8 German city (6)
10 Toss slowly (3)
11 If not, except (6)
14 Those people from Baghdad (6)
17 Lowly (6)
18 Cuba's capital (6)
19 Make certain (6)
22 Supported, aided or promoted (6)
24 French monarch (3)
25 Maker of suits (6)
27 That is to say; to wit (6)
29 Worsen (11)

DOWN

1 Floor covering (3)
2 Canadian symbol ___ leaf (5)
3 Staggers (5)
4 Winsome deer (5)
5 Sri ___ : emerald isle on southern tip of India? (5)
6 Curved line (3)
7 Karnataka lies on India's ___–___ coast (5-4)
9 Farm management (9)
12 Moves with a lame walk (5)
13 Pertaining to the sun? (5)
15 Lasso for the cowboy (5)
16 An elementary particle (5)
20 Without illumination (5)
21 Mistake (5)
22 Housie or lotto? (5)
23 Punctuation mark (5)
26 Assistance (3)
28 Falsehood or fib (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: D EQUALS G

RZFA ITSE SH JLQ MAQTCSED ZY JLQ HLQOO JLTJ QEBOZHQH RZFA FEKQAHJTEKSED.

Linemaro

Want the key to my heart? It's in my back pocket

Mindchow

Say the right thing at the right time, but leave the wrong thing unsaid at the tempting time

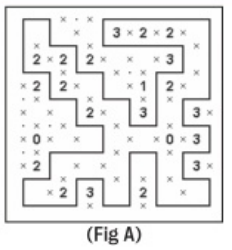
Joke of the day

"I want some rat poison." "Should I wrap it up or do you want to eat it right here?"

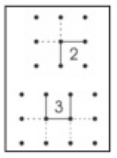
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



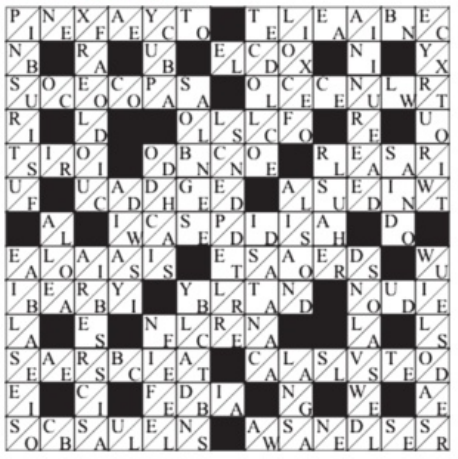
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5 W
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 Crows; 6 Bleep;
7 Aedes; 8 Saree;
9 De Low

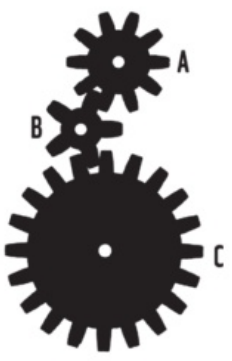
DOWN

1 Deeps; 2 Carol;
3 Wears; 4 So bee;
5 We led

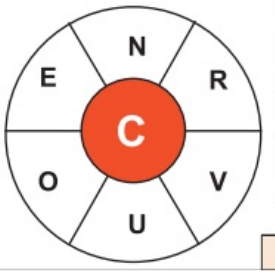
Mensapuzzle

What is the ratio between A and C?

A. 2 to 1
B. 4 to 1
C. 1 to 1
D. 5 to 1



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 11 Good; 13 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		9	4		7	6		
			8		6			
7	4						9	1
	3		7		9		6	
	9	7				3	1	
	6		5		1		8	
3	5						4	6
			6		8			
		1	9		3	2		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 21
2 5 6 8

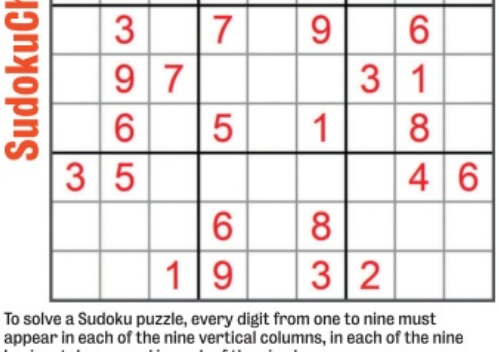
Medium = 12
3 4 9 3

Hard = 10
2 7 8 7

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



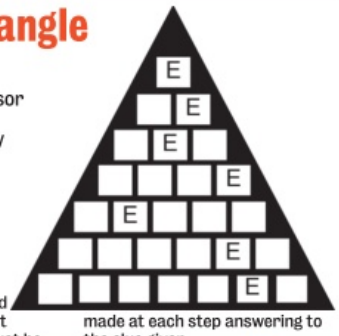
Differences: 1. Hair is different. 2. Ann is longer. 3. Hat is tilted. 4. Tree is reversed. 5. Moustache is smaller. 6. Walkway is wider.

Riddler

It's clear a dormitory Is indeed a dirty room And that a schoolmaster Matches the classroom. But did you know a funeral Is a form of real fun? And that eleven plus two Is the same as twelve plus one? What is it?

Alpha triangle

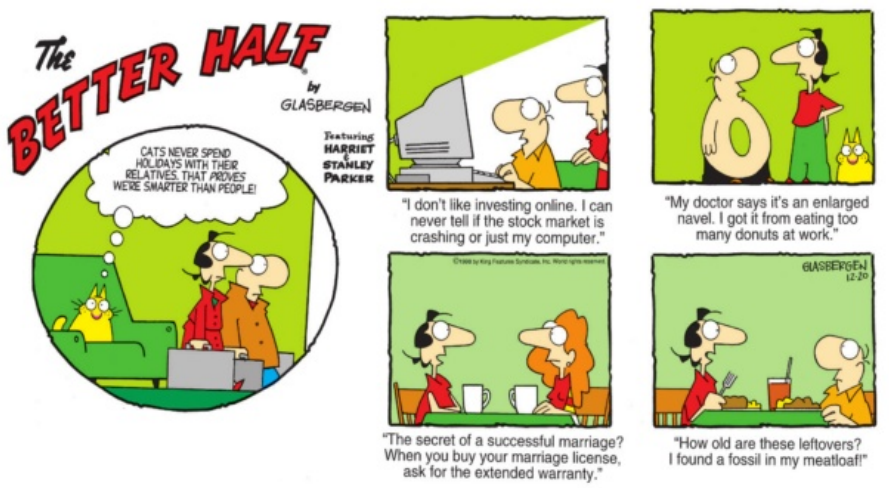
1 Second vowel
2 French article
3 Virgo's predecessor
4 Just one
5 South Korean city
6 Small eggs
7 Big books



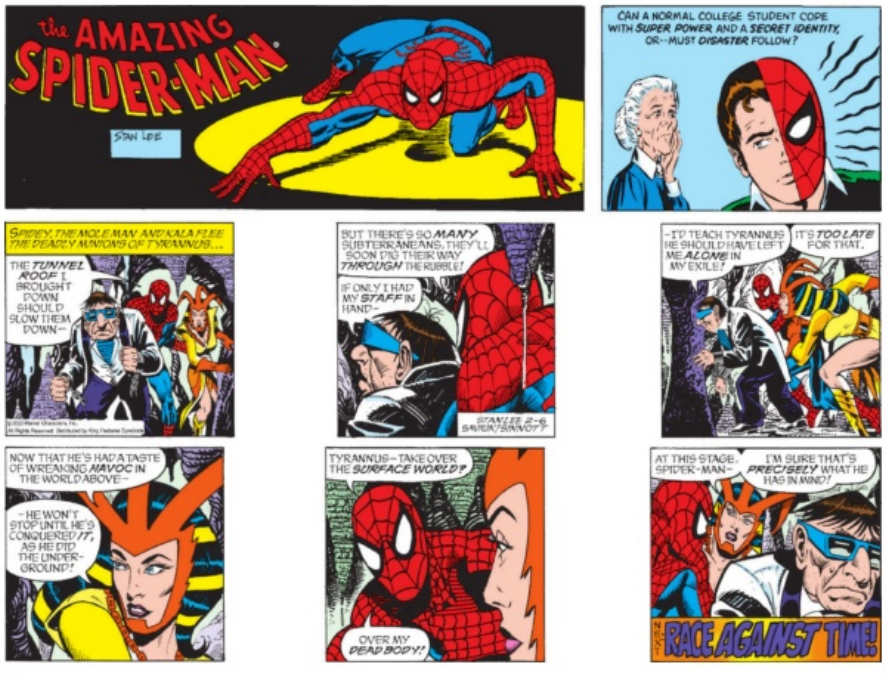
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
CATS NEVER SPEND HOLIDAYS WITH THEIR RELATIVES. THAT PROVES WE'RE SMARTER THAN PEOPLE!
"I don't like investing online. I can never tell if the stock market is crashing or just my computer."
"My doctor says it's an enlarged navel. I got it from eating too many donuts at work."
"The secret of a successful marriage? When you buy your marriage license, ask for the extended warranty."
GLASBERGEN
"How old are these leftovers? I found a fossil in my meatloaf!"

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
WHAT?
NOTHING.
I WAS JUST WONDERING HOW IT FEELS TO BE MOM AND DAD'S THIRD-FAVORITE KID.
UM...
I MEAN, TECHNICALLY YOU'RE NOT EVEN THEIRS. YOU WERE BEING RAISED BY WILD FERRETS WHEN THEY FOUND YOU.
REALLY?
OH YEAH. YOU HAD A TAIL AND EVERYTHING. AND BOY DID YOU LIKE TO BURROW!
I DO LIKE TUNNELS...
WELL, THOSE CAREFREE DAYS OF FROLICKING AND SLEEPING ARE GONE. YOU'RE ONE OF US NOW... AT LEAST UNTIL YOU'RE EIGHTEEN.
WHEN DO I GET TO MEET MY BIOLOGICAL PARENTS?
AT DINNER. WHAT HAS YOUR SISTER BEEN TELLING YOU?


the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
STAN LEE
CAN A NORMAL COLLEGE STUDENT COPE WITH SUPER POWER AND A SECRET IDENTITY, OR--MUST DISASTER FOLLOW?
SPIDEY, THE MOLE MAN AND KALA FLEE THE DEADLY MINIONS OF TYRANNUS...
THE TUNNEL ROOF I BROUGHT DOWN SHOULD SLOW THEM DOWN--
BUT THERE'S SO MANY SUBTERRANEANS, THEY'LL SOON DIG THEIR WAY THROUGH THE RUBBLE!
IF ONLY I HAD MY STAFF IN HAND--
I'D TEACH TYRANNUS HE SHOULD HAVE LEFT ME ALONE IN MY EXILE!
IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT.
NOW THAT HE'S HAD A TASTE OF WREAKING HAVOC IN THE WORLD ABOVE--
--HE WON'T STOP UNTIL HE'S CONQUERED IT, AS HE DID THE UNDERGROUND!
TYRANNUS--TAKE OVER THE SURFACE WORLD?
OVER MY DEAD BODY!
AT THIS STAGE, SPIDER-MAN--
I'M SURE THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT HE HAS IN MIND!
RACE AGAINST TIME!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today the moon may not favour you and you could find negative vibrations around you. This could make you upset. You are advised to avoid making investments on worthless assets. Do not have expectations from the people around you at work, home, and society. That can upset you further. You are advised to follow your intuition before making important decisions today.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you are blessed by elders. You may be able to implement business plans successfully with the help of your juniors. You may be involved in some social or family get-together, which may boost your network. You are likely to go for short business-related trips, which may bring you benefits in the near future. Disputes with the sibling may be resolved now.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today is a good day, and your financial health is likely to be good. You may get benefits from your past investments. You may have control over your expenditure on worthless items, which may boost your savings. Lovebirds are advised to be polite in conversation with the partner, otherwise there may be conflict between them.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you are blessed by the moon, and it is a good day for you. You have good vitality and energy. You may enjoy yourself at work. You are likely to make plans to start a new project. Your perfectionist tendencies may help you design the perfect flow chart. Job aspirants will find good work. Lovebirds are advised to avoid discussion on worthless topics.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may be disappointed. You are advised to control your arrogance, otherwise you may face some losses due to your harsh tone of speaking. Lovebirds should be careful in discussion on worthless topics as it could lead to break-ups.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you are blessed by the moon, and new sources of income are likely to open. Your past investments will now start paying in terms of profits. Your losses will convert to profits, which will boost your financial health. Health issues related to parents may be resolved.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may be very happy. You will be busy at work, and your seniors will appreciate your effort. You are likely to see changes in terms of your position or responsibilities at work. Promotions could happen. Your opponents and hidden enemies should be under control now. Singles and lovebirds can make important decisions in terms of marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
With the moon on your side now, messy situations are under control. You may initiate postponed tasks. You may be rewarded for your hard work. There are some gains in your business which may boost your savings. You may spend money on artefacts or literature. You can also plan for overseas travel.

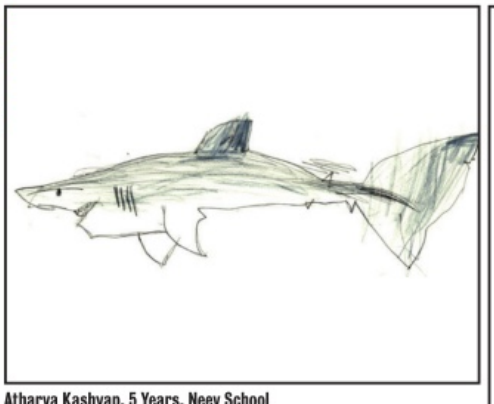
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may feel dull. Health issues could occur and impact your professional and domestic life. You are likely to be upset due to health issues of your spouse. Running projects may stop without any reason. You are advised not to make investments in new business projects, otherwise you may face losses. Students are advised to avoid fantasy and should work hard in their studies.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may be busy at work. You are likely to explore extra sources of income which may boost your bank balance. You may take an interest in artefacts, movies, and glamour, which may improve your creativity. Lovebirds can convert their relationship into marriage. Students may now go ahead with their aims in terms of career.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you are blessed by the positive moon. You may feel healthy as old health issues go away. Money that was stuck somewhere should be recovered now. You may also apply for a loan for buying some items related to luxury. You may also be able to have control over your opponents.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may feel very dull. It may make you lazy and careless. You are likely to be unfocused at work. Impatience may pull you down negatively. It is not a good time to make investments. Kids and spouse's health may make you upset. Lovebirds should avoid making arguments in family matters. Students are advised to study in depth to get success in their exams.

KIDZONE



Atharva Kashyap, 5 Years, Neev School

Bharath G, 14 Years, St.Anthony's School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

BULL'S EYE
cone, core, corn, cove, coven, cover, crone, cure, curve, ecru, once, ounce, UNCOVER

QUOTE UNCODE
Your pain is the breaking of the shell that encloses your understanding.

STRIKE OUT

S	C	A	L	E	S		W	A	N	D	E	R		
S	E	R	B	I	A		C	A	L	V	E	D		
A	E		F	L	E	A		L		L				
B	A	B	Y		B	R	A	N		O	U	I		
A	L	I	A	S		T	S	A	R	S		W		
	A		W	A	S	P	I	S	H		D			
	T	R	I		O	N	C	E		R	E	A	R	
	I		L	O	S	L	O		R	O				
S	C	O	O	P	S		O	C	C	U	L	T		
N	R		U		E	C	O	N		X				
I	N	F	E	C	T		E	L	A	I	N	E		

FAST FIVE

S	C	R	O	W
P	L	E	B	E
E	A	S	E	
E	R	A	S	E
D	O	W	E	L

RIDDLER Anagram!

SOLVE IN 1M
-25-(-25)-25-(25)
-25+25-25-25
-50

QUICK

M	E	M	O	R	A	B	I	L	I	A				
A		E		E		A		R		R				
S	T	A	P	L	E		M	U	N	I	C	H		
U		L		L	O	B		K		U				
U	N	L	E	S	S		I	R	A	O	I	S		
T		O		I		O		I		U		B		
T	A	I	L	O	R		N	A	M	E	L	Y		
S		N		R	O	I		O				R		
E	N	S	U	R	E		B	A	C	K	E	D		
W		P		A		T		R		N				
H	U	M	B	L	E		H	A	V	A	N	A		
T		I		O		I		U		B				
D	E	T	E	R	I	O	R	A	T	E				

MENSA PUZZLE
A. Pinion A has 10 teeth.
Pinion C has 20 teeth.
Therefore the ratio between them is exactly 2:1, which is obtained by dividing the larger by the smaller. In other words, pinion A will make two revolutions while pinion C makes one. The intermediate pinion does not in anyway alter the ratio between the other two.

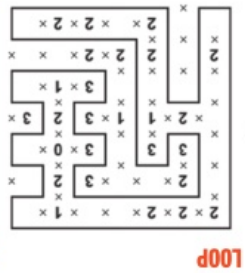
SUDOKU

5	8	9	4	1	7	6	2	3
2	1	3	8	9	6	5	7	4
7	4	6	3	2	5	8	9	1
1	3	5	7	8	9	4	6	2
8	9	7	2	6	4	3	1	5
4	6	2	5	3	1	7	8	9
3	5	8	1	7	2	9	4	6
9	2	4	6	5	8	1	3	7
6	7	1	9	4	3	2	5	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
E, Le, Leo, Sole, Soleil, Ovules, Volumes.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 + 8 + 2 + 6 = 21
Medium
4 – 3 x 3 + 9 = 12
Hard
7 – 7 + 2 + 8 = 10

LOOP



KAKURO

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A clean slate

Employees of a firm collect garbage from Arekere's roads

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Garbage has always been a sticking point in Bengaluru. The city's lakes, parks and roads are littered. But, this bunch of employees of an organic farming enterprise decided there is no point engaging in blame game, when they could actually do something about the mess.

Over 100 employees from the company joined hands on Saturday morning to clean the roads of Arekere on Bannerghatta Road. They began the drive at 11 am and completed a stretch of 1 km on a busy road. With gloves and masks on, the group collected over 200 kg of garbage that filled up 40 gunny bags. The bags were later handed over to the BBMP garbage collectors for recycling. For this group, this is not a new activity. Last month, they had collected 200 kg of garbage.

Veena Hegde, an employee of the firm, told BM, "This is the first time I am participating in the cleaning drive. I have managed waste segregation at my apartment complex, but never participated in any such drives. I felt proud to be part of this endeavour to help people to keep an area clean and to spread awareness among the public." She said she would participate in such activities more often. "After our second drive, the place looks much cleaner than last time," she said.

The group had come up with the idea to clean up streets of the city on Environment Day this year. They plan to continue the drive on the first week of every month.

Arekere with its many colleges, schools, malls, hospitals, companies and residential buildings is always crowded and with Metro work going on, the place is always littered.

Shashi Kumar, Founder and CEO of Akshayakalpa Organic, said the company's employees had launched the drive in 2021 at Tiptur where their plant is located. Every 15 days all employees get together and go to neighbouring villages for cleaning activities. "The same is being implemented around our offices in Bengaluru," says Shashikumar.

After the first successful drive in June, more employees have joined up. Kashyap Deshikan, an employee, said, "I have never involved myself in cleaning at my house but after joining in this drive, I am motivated to do this at my house too." Deshikan said he has witnessed changes in his colleagues due to the initiative.

"We are more motivated to keeping our city clean. If everyone thinks like this, then our city will stay clean," he said.

> **"We are more motivated than before towards keeping our city clean**
> –Kashyap Deshikan, Employee

KAUSHIK JN

Around 100 employees of a farming enterprise joined up to clear garbage from a 1-km stretch of Arekere on Bannerghatta Road

Sanitisers back in vogue

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Remember the time sanitisers flew off the shelves and they were only being black-marketed at sky-high prices? A somewhat similar scene is happening once again in Bengaluru.

With the number of covid cases once again on the rise, Bengalureans are taking all the precautions to keep themselves safe from the virus. The pharmacies as a result are noticing an increase in the sale of sanitisers and masks.

They say that as soon as the cases started increasing, their sale of sanitisers and surgical masks increased as well. Raghu M, working at Aster pharmacy, Dasarahalli, said, "In the last few weeks we have sold so many sanitisers that today, the stock got over. We ordered more sanitisers and masks. People are buying two to three packs together and throw in masks also."

Vijay, working in Varshini Medicals, Nagasandra, said, "Earlier this year, people had completely stopped buying sanitisers and masks but now they are buying double the quantity. We had stocks of sanitisers left with us, but everything has gotten over. Some of them are buying three or four together. The sale of gloves and N-95 masks have also increased."

Some of the pharmacies say that they are getting orders from their customers to even buy specific brands of sanitisers.

The people in the city say that they want to be prepared in case the situation gets worse. Neetha RG, a resident of Nagasandra, said that when the lockdown happened, we searched for so many places but everywhere, there was a shortage of sanitisers and even masks. "Even though the situation is not the serious now, nobody knows what will happen in future, so I am just being prepared by keeping sanitisers and masks at hand."

> **Seems Bengalureans are taking all precautions this time as pharmacies report sudden rise in demand for sanitisers**

Atlanta Guha, general physician, residing at Marathahalli, added that there was no proper way of preventing oneself from the disease except for maintaining proper hygiene. While there is no guarantee that it will definitely help the people and prevent them from getting the disease, but it will definitely better than practicing nothing.

POWERful move

State government says occupation certificate no longer needed to get new electricity connection

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If you're planning to construct your dream home or build a factory in the city, there's good news. Now, an Occupation Certificate (OC) will no longer be needed to get an electricity connection.

Till now, any applicant for power connection had to furnish the OC from BBMP before commencement of supply of electricity including to any additional floors or additional built-up area to an existing building/complex. Now, the applicant should produce only proof of identity and ownership as the State Government has issued fresh orders clarifying removal of OC permission after the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC)'s order.

Move long due

The demand to remove OC is long-standing. On January 12 this year, the Additional Chief Secretary, Commerce and Industries Department had requested Additional Chief Secretary Energy to amend the KERC Regulations for exempting the industries from producing OC. Even industries have been batting for this. The Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA) had also requested the Chief Minister on April 4 this year to exempt the industries from providing OC. The request was transferred to Electricity Supply Companies (ESCOMs) for feedback.

ESCOMs bat for removal of OC

ESCOMs also said there was no need for demanding OC. They contended that denial of electricity supply to an occupant of a building would amount to denial of essential service to such occupants.

"Section 43 of the Electricity Act, 2003, specifies that it is the duty of the distribution licensee to supply electricity to the premises within one month of receipt of application. There is a provision of penalising ESCOMs if they fail to comply. Creating an obligation to produce the OC to avail supply of electricity defeats the very purpose of Acts. Hence, it is the duty of distribution licensee to ensure that electricity is supplied on request and not to insist on the production of OC," ESCOMs claimed in a petition to KERC.

The ESCOMs also argued that Karnataka was a state with surplus power. If OC was not made mandatory, then large number of consumers could be provided with power connection

Unauthorised construction

However, this decision has been criticised by experts including a few BBMP officials who claim that the removal of OC would lead to construction in rampant violation of the building by-laws; thereby it would encourage them to violate the provisions of law. Reacting to this, KERC said, "To curb construction of unauthorised buildings, the local bodies will have to take action under the enactments. The Electricity Act and the Regulations cannot be used for curbing violations under other laws. Providing an essential service to the consumer is more important, as under the Electricity Act 2003."